

CONTINENTAL DIALOGUE ON NON-NATIVE FOREST INSECTS & DISEASES
EIGHTH DIALOGUE MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Meeting Summary

On November 13, 2012, a diverse group of approximately 45 representatives from state and federal agencies; private business and industry; academia; and non-governmental organizations gathered at the Sacramento Convention Center for the eighth annual meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases (the Dialogue). This meeting was held in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry Conference, which took place at the Sacramento Convention Center on November 14-15, 2012.

The Dialogue's eighth annual meeting was planned and convened by the Dialogue Steering Committee, a cross-section of stakeholders with an interest in protecting forests from the threat of non-native insects and diseases. Presentations and meeting materials (including the meeting agenda and speaker bios) are available on the Dialogue's website at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/summary.htm>.

I. Meeting Objectives

The purpose of this meeting was to advance collaboration around actions to address the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases. Specific objectives included:

- Cultivating collaborations toward action to address the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases;
- Looking for opportunities to link state and local actions to Continental Dialogue efforts to enhance national policies and strategies;
- Expanding the effectiveness and reach of public and private entities and citizens in the battle against the non-native insects and diseases killing their trees; and
- Identifying and seeking consensus on needed actions for major initiatives the Dialogue will advance in the upcoming year.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator Paul De Morgan, RESOLVE, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of the Dialogue's Steering Committee. Mr. De Morgan briefly reviewed the materials provided to meeting participants and then provided an overview of the agenda and meeting ground rules.

Bill Toomey, Forest Health Director with The Nature Conservancy and a member of the Dialogue's Steering Committee, welcomed participants and acknowledged the work and dedication of the Steering Committee members, the RESOLVE team, and the TNC staff who work on behalf of the Dialogue. Mr. Toomey reminded the group of the Dialogue's goals, current activities, and accomplishments. He noted that the annual meeting provides an opportunity for Dialogue participants to help the Steering Committee determine key issues and activities on which the Dialogue should focus in the coming year.

Mr. Toomey's presentation is available at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/01-Toomey.pdf>.

Meeting participants then introduced themselves. The full list of participants is available at the end of this summary.

Mr. De Morgan introduced Sandy Schubert, who provided some opening remarks on behalf of Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

III. Panel: Forest Health Initiatives – Local Actions

The group then heard from a panel of experts about local actions on forest health initiatives. Speaker bios are available at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/2012-Speaker-Bios.pdf>.

- **Current Situation with Wood Packaging: California and Nationally** – Kevin Harriger, Department of Homeland Security /Customs and Border Protection.
- **Current Situation with Incoming Plants: California and Nationally** – Marla Cazier-Mosley, Regional Program Manager for the Western Region, USDA-APHIS. Ms. Cazier-Mosley's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/02-Cazier-Mosley.pdf>.
- **Educating Citizens about Risk to Increase Their Willingness to Accept Control Measures** – huonglongbing – Joel Nelsen, President, California Citrus Mutual. Mr. Nelsen's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/03-Nelsen.pdf>.
- **California Firewood Task Force** – Janice Alexander, University of California Cooperative Extension. Ms. Alexander's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/04-Alexander.pdf>.
- **Nursery Certification Update** – Craig Regelbrugge, American Nursery & Landscape Association. Mr. Regelbrugge's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/05-Regelbrugge.pdf>.

IV. Panel: Overview and Update of Dialogue Initiatives and Actions

The group then heard several updates on the Dialogue's Initiatives and activities. Speaker bios are available at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/2012-Speaker-Bios.pdf>.

- **Don't Move Firewood and Firewood Outreach Coordination** – Leigh Greenwood, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy. Ms. Greenwood's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/06-Greenwood.pdf>.
- **Healthy Urban Tree Initiative** – Bill Toomey, Forest Health Protection Program Director, The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Toomey's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/07->

[Toomey.pdf](#).

- **New Pest Documentary: Trees, Pests and People** – Sarah Volkman, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy. Ms. Volkman's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/08-Volkman.pdf>.
- **Joint Outreach Efforts to Woodworkers** – Mark Stanley, Chair, California Oak Mortality Task Force. Mr. Stanley's presentation is available online at: <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/09-Stanley.pdf>.

V. Breakout Sessions

After lunch, the participants broke into a number of smaller discussion sessions. Following these breakout sessions, the group reconvened in plenary to hear brief reports on each breakout and specifically the next steps they planned to take.

Initiative Breakout Session A (Concurrent Sessions)

- **Firewood Certification: Private and Agency Efforts Going Forward** – Geoff Friedman, American Firewood Producers and Distributors Association

Session Description:

As invasive insects and diseases march on, and federal and state budgets continue to contract, we've all had to assess how to best manage the complex issue of firewood movement. In this breakout session we will hear from the perspectives of private industry, the Don't Move Firewood campaign, and all session attendees about how we can move forward in a way that furthers the common goal of slowing the spread of invasive species in a reasonable and effective manner.

Presentations:

Mr. Friedman's presentation is available at:

<http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/10-Friedman.pdf>.

Key Points:

Participants were very interested in hearing about the proposed standards being developed as a Process Verified Program (rigorous form of third party certification) via the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. The American Firewood Producers and Distributors (AFPDA) was represented by Geoff Friedman, who outlined what the proposed standards may be. The group discussed different perceptions on the need for heat treatment at different levels.

The group identified the following as some of the key challenges relating to heat treatment of firewood: 1) getting corporate buyers to accept this as a valuable product, thus increasing the distribution and financial viability of a safer firewood; 2) negotiating the differing needs of the firewood producers, state plant regulatory officials, varying APHIS EAB/ALB/softwood heat treatment standards; 3) the message simplicity required to interface successfully with the firewood-buying public; and 4) the cost and carbon emissions associated with potential

“overtreatment” (e.g., more minutes of high temperatures) of kiln-dried firewood.

Discussion revolved mostly around the merits of the proposed AFPDA three tiered heat treatment certification standard, as opposed to a simpler, but possibly more onerous, single highest standard. No firm conclusion on this difficult subject was decided upon.

- **Healthy Urban Tree Initiative: Future Opportunities** – Bill Toomey, Forest Health Protection Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

Session Description:

Learn about the Healthy Urban Tree Initiative and the role of the Continental Forest Dialogue, TNC, the U.S. Forest Service, and others in advancing the Initiative going forward. Learn about the proposed activities for the Healthy Urban Tree Initiative and how Dialogue members can participate. Identify key next steps for the Initiative.

Presentations:

Mr. Toomey’s presentation is available at:

<http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/11-Toomey.pdf>.

Key Points:

Bill Toomey, TNC, provided an overview of the Healthy Urban Tree Initiative and its progress and activities to date. He explained that the Dialogue’s primary role in the Initiative is to develop and promote pest detection tools and to develop communication and outreach materials to raise awareness of the Initiative and its key components.

Participants identified the following challenges in developing and managing urban forests: 1) lack of informed decision making over which trees to plant; 2) lack of funding for monitoring trees once planted; 3) frequent reallocation of monitoring funds to tree removal services; and 4) lack of cohesive coordination between cities and outside groups working on urban forestry issues.

Participants emphasized that the Dialogue is well positioned to play a role in expanding and leveraging partnerships (e.g., with industry, local governments, funders) to help improve coordination of efforts to develop and sustain urban forests.

Several participants suggested the Dialogue could help develop criteria for best practices in urban forest development, management, and monitoring. The criteria could then be turned into a framework or manual for those tasked with developing and maintaining sustainable urban forests. Mr. Toomey indicated this could be something for the Dialogue to explore through its involvement in the Healthy Urban Tree Initiative.

- **Trees, Pests & People: Education and Outreach** – Sarah Volkman, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy

Session Description:

The Trees, Pests & People breakout session will include a viewing of the new 30 minute documentary produced by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with USDA APHIS. Discussion

following the film will engage participants in how the Continental Dialogue can best use the documentary as an educational and outreach tool to raise awareness of non-native invasive forest insects.

Presentations:

The documentary is available for viewing at: <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/films/trees-pests-people/watch-the-film/watch-online.html>.

A copy of Ms. Volkman's presentation is available at:

<http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/12-Volkman.pdf>.

Key Points:

Participants viewed the *Trees, Pests & People* documentary and discussed possible audiences (e.g., master gardeners, nongovernmental organizations focused on urban tree issues, the nursery industry). Ms. Volkman noted that the various TNC chapters have made the documentary available for use by state forestry departments.

The group discussed the types of educational materials that could accompany the documentary (e.g., a written summary of key forest pest issues, information about the danger of moving any unprocessed wood). Ms. Volkman indicated it may be possible to create a packet of materials for those who want to help promote viewing of the documentary or host viewing parties. Participants emphasized the value of tailoring the materials and talking points to fit the specific audience. Participants also shared suggestions for developing age-appropriate lesson plans about invasive forest pests, possibly in coordination with existing programs, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (USDA APHIS) Beetle Busters curriculum.

The group also reviewed draft outreach materials developed by TNC and provided feedback on these tools. Participants agreed that fact sheets and presentation templates are helpful tools. Participants agreed it would be useful to develop two documents detailing best management practices for pests and pathogens.

Initiative Breakout Session B (Concurrent Sessions)

- **There's an App for that: EDDMaps, Firewood Buddy, Report a Pest. Encouraging the Public to Use their Technology to Save Trees** – Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health; Lisa DeBruyckere, Oregon Invasive Species Council Coordinator; and Susan Sawyer, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Session Description:

Learn about the EDDMaps, Firewood Buddy, and Report a Pest urban tree inventory and health assessment tools. Discuss how these tools can be used to advance forest health protection efforts. Identify opportunities for promoting the use of these tools. Identify action items and next steps.

Presentations:

- Mr. Barger's presentation is available at:

- <http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/13-Bargeron.pdf>.
- Ms. DeBruyckere's presentation is available at:
<http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/14-DeBruyckere.pdf>.
- Ms. Sawyer's presentation is available at:
<http://continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2012-11-13/presentations/15-Sawyer.pdf>.

Key Points:

Participants were very interested in learning about the EDDMaps, Firewood Buddy, and Report a Pest tools. The group identified the following as some of the key challenges relating to these types of tools and applications: 1) getting the word out about these types of inventory and health assessment tools; 2) understanding which application to use in which situation; and 3) sharing and coordinating back-end data collected through these types of tools and applications.

To help address the first challenge, the Dialogue has provided a forum for informational presentations on various tree inventory, pest detection, and health assessment tools during several Healthy Urban Tree Initiative calls. Mr. Toomey indicated these presentations will continue in future calls. Additionally, a list of tools and applications (with brief descriptions of each) is currently in development and will be shared with Initiative participants when it is available.

To help address the second challenge, Chuck Bargeron, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia, explained that the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health is currently working on developing a tool that will help individuals better understand the tools and applications available for use in their state and region.

Mr. Toomey suggested the Dialogue consider looking into opportunities to address the challenge of coordinating and sharing collected data.

- **Prevention: Closing the “plants for planting” pathway: how can stakeholders help facilitate adoption by nurseries of integrated pest-management systems?** – Faith Campbell, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy

Session Description:

It is widely believed that nurseries implementing integrated pest-management programs will be more able to prevent introduction and spread of pests via the “plants for planting” pathway. While scientists, regulators, and the nursery industry are nearing agreement on the components of such programs, other issues remain, many around the likely cost of implementing such programs. We will explore what roles stakeholders, working through the Continental Dialogue, might play in strengthening incentives for adopting such programs, possibly including building customer demand for “clean” plants produced under such programs.

Key Points:

Participants discussed the barriers to nursery adoption of integrated pest-minimization programs, and determined that these barriers fall into three major categories: 1) technical or scientific barriers (e.g., techniques to prevent or eradicate pests); 2) performance barriers (e.g.,

whether these practices are applicable in a real world setting); and 3) regulatory barriers (e.g., what regulations should be required and at what cost). Participants also discussed whether the Dialogue could help the nursery industry overcome some of these obstacles and thus make these types of programs worthwhile to nursery owners.

Participants pointed out the opportunities for engagement and developing partnerships with a number of relevant entities (e.g., independent garden centers, big box stores with garden centers, members of the trade media). The group identified some programs that are currently in place to help address invasive pests:

- The American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) is initially focusing on quarantine compliance for nurseries that ship interstate and internationally.
- The University of California (Davis) is developing programs for dealing with the various pests considered to be of quarantine significance in California or from supplying states.
- The National Plant Board's Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) program, funded by the Farm Bill Section 10201, is working to integrate nursery systems approaches and state nursery certification programs.

The group agreed it would be useful to continue conversations about engaging the nursery industry to develop and adopt integrated pest-minimization programs and to possibly develop some pilot projects over the next 18-24 months. The focus of engagement still needs to be determined (e.g., customers, retailers, supply chain).

VI. Summary and Next Steps

Mr. De Morgan informed the group that the Dialogue Steering Committee will hold a call on December 6, 2012 to further discuss priorities for the coming year. He noted that a summary of their decisions for 2013 would be shared with the full Dialogue participant list. He encouraged meeting participants who had not formally signed up to be involved in the Dialogue to do so via the Dialogue website (<http://continentalforestdialogue.org/>).

Mr. Toomey concluded the meeting by thanking the group for their participation, the presenters for sharing their knowledge, and the Steering Committee's planning group for coordinating the meeting. He expressed the hope that the attendees found the meeting valuable, and will continue to remain engaged with the Dialogue.

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Participant List

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UC Cooperative Extension

Charles Barger

The University of Georgia

Robert Benjamin

SMA & ISA

Faith Campbell

The Nature Conservancy

Marla Cazier-Mosley

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Lisa DeBruyckere

Oregon Invasive Species Council

Geoff Friedman

American Firewood Producers and Distributors
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Pablo Garza

The Nature Conservancy

Ann Gibbs

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Leigh Greenwood

The Nature Conservancy

Kevin Harriger

Customs & Border Protection

Jennifer Hinrichs

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